

Mines for land sale costs, development of a multispecies habitat conservation plan, and the purchase of conservation lands in Lincoln County.

The bill, as introduced, had a number of serious problems; and at the hearing of the Committee on Resources on H.R. 2752, the administration testified in opposition to the legislation. Subsequent to that hearing, discussions were held in an attempt to address the problems with the bill, and an agreement was worked out on all issues except the distribution of the land sale receipts.

Under current law, 95 percent of these sale receipts would go to the Federal Government for deposit into the Land and Water Conservation Fund, with the remaining 5 percent distributed to the State. The lands identified for sale by this bill are already being sold for the purpose of expanding the local tax base and generating local revenues. Thus, we must question whether a specific revenue-sharing provision for Lincoln County is justified. It is a benefit that is not being provided to other counties. This is not the southern Nevada situation, where Clark County was providing utilities that significantly enhanced the value of public lands being sold.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed distribution of land sale receipts by H.R. 2752 runs counter to what the Congress did just 3 months ago in passing as part of the Baca Ranch legislation, a national public land sale program.

□ 1815

We believe H.R. 2752 should be consistent with existing law. And although we hope that this matter would be addressed before final action is taken on the measure, we will not object to passage today of H.R. 2752.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) the author of this legislation.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me the time to speak on this important piece of legislation for the Second District of Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, although America is enduring what I believe to be one of the most unprecedented economic boom times of all, not every American is benefitting from these most economic prosperity times. And that is certainly the concern in Nevada, because some of the constituents in Lincoln County believe that this economic boom has passed them by.

Mr. Speaker, since Nevada's historic inclusion as a State to this Nation, the Federal Government has laid claim to a very large percentage of the land within the State boundaries and Nevada counties are in a catch-22 because they are land locked in Federal prop-

erty, unable to progress and grow and generate taxes. And to top it all off, the Federal Government has not ever completely funded their payment in lieu of taxes as a property owner in our State.

This is a time when Congress must fight for working families, our counties and our communities that are barely surviving. To help to rectify this difficult situation, I have introduced this bill before us today.

Lincoln County, Mr. Speaker, encompasses about 10,132 square miles of the State of Nevada, which is larger, by the way, than the State of Maryland, 98 percent of which is owned by the Federal Government.

With only 2 percent of the property for a tax base, the revenues that that county is able to generate for their highways and roads, schools, and infrastructure is about \$1.1 million; and that is not enough to even provide the basic services needed and mandated by laws to the citizens of that county.

Lincoln County School District is in a critical situation, as its elementary and high schools are literally uninhabitable because of the lack of private property tax funds necessary to maintain them. And I know because I have had the opportunity to visit them and see for myself what is going on there.

If Lincoln County is unable to provide an adequate education to its young people, its future is in serious jeopardy. So by allowing the BLM the opportunity to sell land that it wants to divest itself of, a set amount of Federally owned land, it will increase Lincoln County's annual property tax base by more than 10 times once it is fully put to use.

In fact, when the land is simply purchased by private individuals, it will immediately double the tax base of Lincoln County.

H.R. 2752 stipulates that a small portion of the money derived by the sale will stay in Nevada to benefit Nevada's students, its infrastructure, and the environment. Five percent of this money will go directly to the State education fund. That is a common practice that we have done in the past. Ten percent, however, of the money will go to Lincoln County to rebuild these condemned schools.

The remaining bulk of the money will be used by the BLM in our State to protect archaeological resources, develop a multi-species habitat conservation plan and cover the costs associated with these land sales, among other things.

Under this legislation, the children of Lincoln County will be able to attend school in a safe structure with an environment aimed toward a good education.

Lincoln County and its school district will gain badly needed property tax revenues, the City of Mesquite will gain much needed room for expansion

that is consistent with its master plan for growth, and the Federal Government will be fairly compensated for the sale of public lands.

H.R. 2752 will give this rural county the vital economic infusion they are going to need to survive and grow and allows the affected parties to control their own growth and make their own land use decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HUTCHINSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2752, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to direct the Secretary of Interior to sell certain public land in Lincoln County through a competitive process."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### DAYTON AVIATION HERITAGE PRESERVATION AMENDMENT ACTS OF 2000

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5036) to amend the Dayton Aviation Heritage Preservation Act of 1992 to clarify the areas included in the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park and to authorize appropriations for that park, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5036

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Dayton Aviation Heritage Preservation Amendments Act of 2000".

#### SEC. 2. REVISION OF DAYTON AVIATION HERITAGE PRESERVATION ACT OF 1992.

(a) AREAS INCLUDED IN PARK.—Section 101(b) of the Dayton Aviation Heritage Preservation Act of 1992 (16 U.S.C. 410ww(b)) is amended to read as follows:

"(b) AREAS INCLUDED.—The park shall consist of the following sites, as generally depicted on a map entitled 'Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park', numbered 362-80,010 and dated September 1, 2000:

"(1) A core parcel in Dayton, Ohio, which shall consist of the Wright Cycle Company building, Hoover Block, and lands between.

"(2) The Setzer building property (also known as the Aviation Trail building property), Dayton, Ohio.

"(3) The residential properties at 26 South Williams Street and at 30 South Williams Street, Dayton, Ohio.

"(4) Huffman Prairie Flying Field, located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

"(5) The Wright 1905 Flyer III and Wright Hall, including constructed additions and attached structures, known collectively as the John W. Berry, Sr. Wright Brothers Aviation Center, Dayton, Ohio.

"(6) The Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial, Dayton, Ohio."

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 109 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 410ww-8) is amended by striking the colon after "title" and all that follows through the end of the sentence and inserting a period.

(c) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 107 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 410ww-6) is amended by striking "Secretary of Interior" and inserting "Secretary of the Interior".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5036 was introduced by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) and amends the 1992 Dayton Aviation Heritage Preservation Act by adding three properties to the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

The Historical Park was originally created and authorized in 1992, which preserves sites associated with Wilbur and Orville Wright and the early development of aviation.

Yesterday I went to that site and looked at this spot.

The bill also removes a provision in the current law which contains a limit of \$200,000 on appropriated funds for use on non-federally owned properties within the boundaries of the historical park. The cap on this appropriation has caused concern for interpretive functions, funding from other sources, and for a construction project which has a small amount of non-Federal land within it.

Mr. Speaker, we request that this bill pass with an amendment which is purely technical in nature. In the introduced bill, the map for the land parcels to be included in this legislation was not numbered or dated. Since that time, we have the information and this is reflected in the amendment. This is a bipartisan measure, has support from the National Park Service, and I urge my colleagues for their support on H.R. 5036, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5036, introduced by our friend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), amends the Dayton Aviation Heritage Preservation Act of 1992 to authorize the inclusion of several structures within the boundaries of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park and to remove a limitation on appropriations.

The park was established by Public Law 102-419 and preserves and interprets resources associated with the Wright Brothers and the early days of aviation. The park is managed under a public-private partnership between the National Park Service, the Ohio Historical Society, and local aviation history organizations.

The National Park Service has identified four structures that they believe would enhance the preservation, development, and operation of the park.

In addition, the National Park Service has expressed concern that the current cap on appropriations to non-federally owned properties within the boundaries of the park is overly restrictive and severely limits the ability of the National Park Service to achieve the management objectives of the park.

At the hearing before the Committee on Resources on H.R. 5036, the National Park Service testified in favor of this legislation. We also support the bill, as well, and we urge our colleagues to vote for its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, this bill was introduced by the gentlemen from Ohio (Mr. HALL) and (Mr. HOBSON), and I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON).

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this piece of legislation. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) and myself introduced this back in 1992, the original legislation. As stated, it is a bipartisan piece of legislation.

We think the park has progressed very well working together today. The park is fairly unusual as national parks go because it has a number of different locations, as has been explained. The major part of it is in the district of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL). That is where they built the first flying machine.

Where they learned how to fly was in my district on Huffman Prairie. The story goes that people used to ride the Inner Urban out to watch the Wright Brothers learning to fly.

We hope that lots of people will come to our districts and to go in and see the Wright Brothers museum and also go out to the Huffman Prairie. And some day we hope that there is not only an interpretive center out there, but an actual flying machine on the prairie.

I would also like to remark, it is something that is not in here today but it is in the original park bill and it is still there, is the Paul Laurence Dunbar Museum.

Paul Laurence Dunbar and the Wrights had a very unique relationship back many years ago, which is something I think all of our public should learn about and emulate in the relations between two people who look differently. The Wrights and Paul Lau-

rence Dunbar established a good business and friendship back in those days, which is something I hope we can foster with this park.

We had this technical problem with the park which we think has been worked out and everybody seems to be in support of it today.

Again, I would like to commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) for his work in the establishment of this park.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL).

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) for yielding me the time. I want to thank the chairman of the committee for bringing this bill up at this time, and certainly my colleague and my friend next door to me, who has the adjacent district, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON). He made an important part, and his continued support of this park is very important.

The purpose of the park is to preserve, as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) said, the legacy of the Wright Brothers, who invented the airplane in Dayton, Ohio. It also honors their friend, African American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar.

This bill includes three small boundary changes to the park. It also eliminates a cap on the appropriated funds that can be spent on the units within the park that are not owned by the Federal Government.

The Dayton Park was an early experiment in a partnership between the National Park Service and the non-Federal property owners, and that experiment has worked well and we have gained experience in operating this kind of park. However, we have also discovered that some changes are necessary to ensure the continued success of the park.

The 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers' first flight will be celebrated in the year 2003. This park is expected to be the focal point of the Dayton festivities. Therefore, the Dayton community is anxious to get the park completed as soon as possible. This legislation will help get the park up and running.

The year 2003 is just around the corner, and we do not have much time left. I urge the Members to adopt this bill. I thank the chairman for bringing it up at this time.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5036, as amended.